

WATERLEAF INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

Length: .5 mile (45 minutes)
Trail type: Loop
Difficulty: Easy to moderate
Trail Blaze: Yellow



Browne's Waterleaf

The first section of this trail is an ADA barrier-free concrete paved loop that begins just east of the visitor center parking lot and meanders for .25 mile along the ridge top. Wayside panels along the path highlight features of the area, and a playground and picnic tables are adjacent to the trail. The second section of this trail is a .25-mile moderate foot path that leads down the north slope of the ridge to the Hwy. 278 River Access. The northern slope features many unique plants, some of which are rare. The trail is named after the *Browne's Waterleaf*, a rare flower found here in the spring.

BRUSHY CREEK TRAIL

Length: .75 mile (30 minutes)
Trail type: Loop
Difficulty: Easy
Trail Blaze: Yellow

This trail begins in the parking lot of the Brushy Creek Recreation Area off of Hwy. 246, 8 miles east of Vandervoort, Ark. It follows along a ridge top that overlooks the confluence of Brushy Creek and the Cossatot River. Unique geologic features can be seen along the trail. A trail guide brochure is available that highlights trees found in pine and hardwood stands of southwest Arkansas. The numbered trees in the brochure correspond with numeric labels placed near matching tree species along this trail. Also featured on this trail is a steel walkway that spans the river and offers barrier-free access from the west side parking lot. This walkway allows visitors to walk from the west side of the river to the east side parking lot where both picnic grounds and a swimming area are located.

HARRIS CREEK TRAIL

Length: 3.5 miles (4 hours)
Trail type: Loop
Difficulty: Moderate to strenuous
Trail Blaze: Yellow

This trail is located off of Hwy. 278, approximately 9 miles east of Wickes, Ark., and features easy to moderately strenuous hiking. You will pass through diverse habitats including shale pits, glades, creeks and streams, drainage areas, an alluvial terrace, mature pine stands, and hardwood forest. During spring and summer months, many unique and rare flower species can be seen here. Halfway through the trail is a scenic overlook, named Goat's Bluff, that offers a spectacular view of the Cossatot River as it winds its way through the Ouachita Mountains. A registration log is available at the trailhead.

RIVER CORRIDOR TRAIL

Length: 12.5 miles (20 hours)
Trailhead: Multiple
Trail type: Multiple
Difficulty: Moderate to strenuous
Trail Blaze: Blue

This trail is a 12.5-mile, linear trail that winds its way through some of the roughest, yet most scenic, terrain found in the Ouachita Mountains. The trailhead is at Brushy Creek Access Area. Along the way observe many scenic views of the river corridor, its geological features, and the surrounding riparian forest. This trail is excellent for backpacking. Hikers must limit their camping to the established campsites at Ed Banks, Sandbar, and Cossatot Falls access areas. The trail ends at the Hwy. 278 access area. For your safety, a hiking plan must be completed at the visitor center for the River Corridor Trail if you plan to camp overnight.

The trail is divided into sections according to the river access areas. Parking is available at each of the access areas if you do not wish to hike the entire trail. Plan for approximately six to eight hours per leg (or nearly 1.5 hours per mile). Ed Banks to the Falls is approximately 2 miles and is a relatively easy to moderate hike. The final portion, from the Falls to the Hwy. 278 Access is approximately 5.5 miles and is rated moderate to strenuous.

AT THE END OF YOUR ADVENTURE

We hope that no matter what trail you choose, you have a memorable and enjoyable experience hiking at Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area. If you take the time to hike all of the trails available in the park, you will better understand why this special place was chosen to be preserved forever.

Our trails offer an opportunity to view the wide diversity of natural resources along the Cossatot River corridor. While hiking the trails you may notice many of these natural resources and features. If you would like to learn more about our corridor, we welcome you to talk to a park interpreter, go on a guided hike, or attend a program. You may also want to explore the visitor center exhibits. Pocket field guides, books, equipment, and souvenirs are available for purchase in the gift shop.



COSSATOT RIVER STATE PARK-NATURAL AREA

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Wickes, AR 71973
(870) 385-2201
Cossatot@Arkansas.gov
ArkansasStateParks.com



TRAILS of COSSATOT RIVER STATE PARK-NATURAL AREA



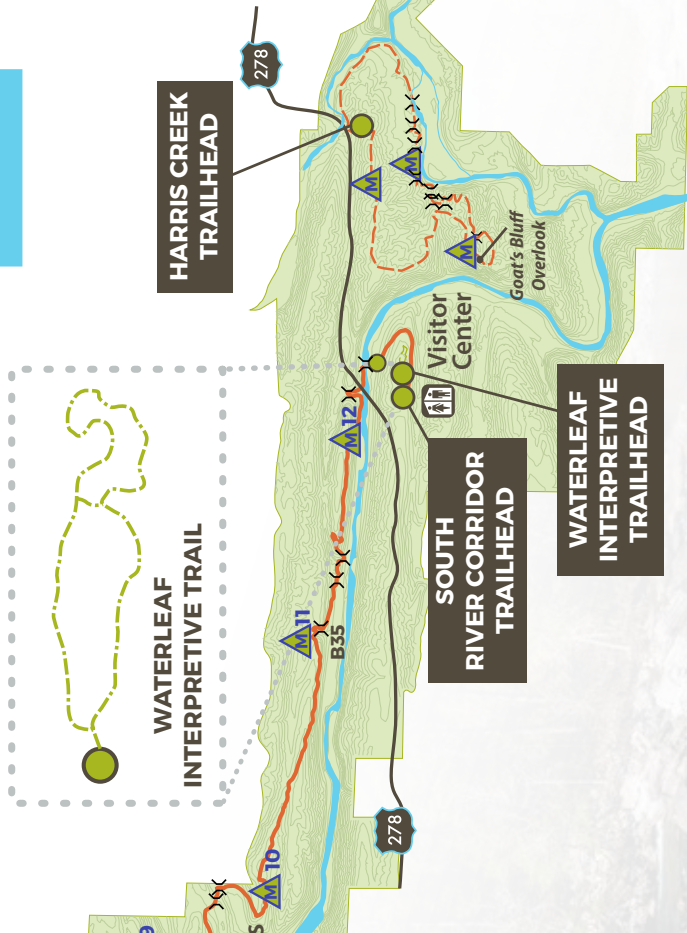
Welcome to COSSATOT RIVER STATE PARK-NATURAL AREA

You can enjoy miles of trails here along the National Wild and Scenic Cossatot River. This park protects unique ecosystems and habitats for plants and animals. It also offers impressive geologic features, views of a nearby stream, and scenic overlooks. Whether you are looking for a challenging adventure, or a pleasant stroll, the park has a trail for everyone.

HIKER HINTS AND GUIDELINES

1. **For your safety, create a hiking plan.** This measure ensures that you have completed your hike and returned safely in a timely manner. A trail registration log is available at the Harris Creek Trailhead. If you plan to hike the River Corridor Trail, please come to the visitor center to complete a hiking plan and a vehicle tag for overnight hikes.
2. **Stay on designated trails** to prevent erosion and avoid getting lost. Trails are clearly marked by colored blazes painted or attached to trees along the trail.
3. **Trails are foot traffic only.** No horses or ATVs.
4. **Use caution and wear sturdy, non-skid footwear** on steep, slippery, and rocky terrain.
5. **Always carry plenty of water** for you, children, and pets.
6. **Pack an extra flashlight and batteries** in case you do not return before dark.
7. **Please practice Leave No Trace ethics** and remove litter from the trail.
8. **Leave wildlife, rocks, and plants undisturbed** for others to enjoy.
9. **Pets must be leashed at all times.**
10. **Do not camp along trails.** You may camp on designated campsites at Ed Banks, Cossatot Falls, and the Sandbar.
11. **Plan ahead:** Trails open at sunrise and close one hour after sunset. Shuttles are not available.
12. **Use restrooms** at Brushy Creek, Ed Banks, Cossatot Falls, and the visitor center. If restrooms are not close, please use the "cat hole method" dig a 6-8"-deep hole 200 ft from campsites, trails, and streams.

TRAILS of COSSATOT RIVER STATE PARK-NATURAL AREA



LEGEND

- Waterleaf Interpretive (dashed green line) .5 mile
- Brushy Creek (dashed blue line) .75 mile
- Harris Creek (dashed red line) 3.5 miles
- River Corridor (solid orange line) 12.5 miles
- Trailhead (black box with white triangle)
- Bridge (X symbol)
- (Every 5th bridge is noted on the map, e.g., B5, B10, etc.)
- Mile Marker (triangle with letter and number)
- Restroom (triangle with person icon)
- Campground (triangle with tent icon)



To preserve scenic beauty and ecology, fences and warning signs have not been installed in some park locations. Caution and increased supervision of your children and others in your care are required while visiting these areas.